

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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JOSE CALDERON CHAPARRO,

Civil Action No.

Plaintiff,

-against-

UTICA FINEST MEATS INC. and  
MARCOS CHAPARRO,

Defendants.

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**COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff, JOSE CALDERON CHAPARRO (“Plaintiff”), as and for his Complaint against Defendants, UTICA FINEST MEATS INC. and MARCOS CHAPARRO (“Defendants”), respectfully alleges as follows:

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

1. Plaintiff brings this action under the Fair Labor Standards Act (hereinafter the “FLSA”), 29 U.S.C. §§ 201 et seq., the New York Labor Articles 6 and 19, and the New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations 142-2.2 (hereinafter the “New York Labor Articles”) to recover unpaid overtime compensation and for other relief.

2. Jurisdiction over Plaintiff’s FLSA claims is based upon Section 216(b) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), and upon 28 U.S.C. § 1331.

3. The Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff’s state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367(a) because these claims are so related to the FLSA claims that they form part of the same case or controversy.

4. Venue in this district is appropriate under 28 U.S.C. §1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of the events giving rise to these claims occurred in this judicial district.

### **PARTIES**

5. Plaintiff was employed by Defendants from on or about March, 2011 to on or about December 28, 2015.

6. Upon information and belief, Defendant, Utica Finest Meats Inc. (“Utica”), is a domestic corporation duly formed and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of New York.

7. Upon information and belief, Defendant, Marcos Chaparro (“Chaparro”), is a resident of the State of New York.

8. Upon information and belief, Utica operates a meat market located at 845 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11203.

9. At all relevant times, Chaparro was and still is a corporate officer of Utica. Upon information and belief, at all times relevant, Chaparro exercised operational control over Utica, controlled significant business functions of Utica, determined employee salaries, made hiring decisions, and acted on behalf of and in the interest of Utica, in devising, directing, implementing, and supervising the wage and hour practices and policies relating to the employees. As such, at all relevant times, Chaparro has been an employer under the FLSA and the New York Wage and Hour Law.

### **FACTS**

10. From on or about March, 2011 to on or about December 28, 2015, Plaintiff performed duties for Defendants such as opening the market, closing the store, working the counter, working the cash register, helping with inventory, and cleaning the store.

11. During this time, Plaintiff worked six (6) days per week with Wednesday being his off day.

12. From on or about March, 2011 to on or about the end of December, 2013, Plaintiff's work schedule was as follows: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

13. During this time, Plaintiff was given a 30 minute meal break each day.

14. During this time, Plaintiff worked 74 hours each week.

15. From on or about the end of December, 2013 to December 28, 2015, Plaintiff's work schedule was as follows: Monday, Thursday, and Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Saturday from 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

16. During this time Plaintiff was given a 30 minute meal break each day.

17. During this time, Plaintiff worked 66 hours each week.

18. During his employment, Defendants paid Plaintiff a weekly salary in cash.

19. During his employment, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff overtime compensation.

20. During his employment, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff time and a half his regular rate of pay when he worked more than 40 hours each week.

21. During his employment, Defendants did not give Plaintiff pay stubs each week.

22. During his employment, Defendants did not give Plaintiff any wage notices.

23. During his employment, Plaintiff never clocked in when his shift began or clocked out when his shift ended.

24. Upon information and belief, Defendants did not accurately record the time that Plaintiff worked each day and each week during his employment.

25. Chaparro hired Plaintiff.

26. Chaparro supervised Plaintiff on a daily basis.
27. Chaparro determined Plaintiff's schedule each week.
28. Chaparro determined Plaintiff's rate of pay.
29. Chaparro determined Plaintiff's daily job duties.
30. Chaparro participated in running the daily operations of Utica during Plaintiff's employment.
31. Plaintiff was not exempt from the overtime provisions of the FLSA or the NYLL.
32. During his employment, Defendants managed Plaintiff's employment, including the amount of overtime he worked.
33. Defendants devised, dictated, implemented, controlled, and supervised the wage and hour practices and policies relating to Plaintiff.
34. Defendants were aware of Plaintiff's work hours, but failed to pay him the full amount of wages to which he was entitled to for this work time under the law.
35. Defendants' failures to pay proper wages in a timely manner have been made without good faith, willfully, and with a reckless disregard for Plaintiff's rights; and Plaintiff has been damaged by such failures.

**COUNT I**  
**FLSA Overtime Claim**

36. Plaintiff reasserts and realleges the allegations set forth in each of the above paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
37. The FLSA regulates the payment of wages by employers whose employees are "engaged in commerce or engaged in the production of goods for commerce, or are employed in an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce." 29 U.S.C. § 207(a)(1).

38. The corporate Defendant was and is subject to the overtime pay requirements of the FLSA because said Defendant is an enterprise engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce.

39. Upon information and belief, the gross annual volume of sales made or business done by the corporate Defendant for the years 2015 and 2014 was not less than \$500,000.00.

40. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was entitled to the rights, benefits, and protections granted by the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 207, *et seq.*

41. Section 207(a)(1) of the FLSA states that an employee must be paid overtime, equal to at least one and one half times the employee's regular rate of pay, for all hours worked in excess of 40 per week.

42. By the above-alleged conduct, Defendants have violated the FLSA by failing to pay Plaintiff overtime compensation as required by the FLSA.

43. Section 13 of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 213, exempts certain categories of employees from the overtime compensation requirements set forth in Section 207(a)(1) of the FLSA.

44. However, none of the Section 13 exemptions apply to Plaintiff because he has not met the requirements for coverage under the exemptions.

45. Defendants have acted willfully and have either known that their conduct violated the FLSA or have shown reckless disregard for the matter of whether their conduct violated the FLSA.

46. Defendants have not acted in good faith with respect to the conduct alleged herein.

47. As a result of Defendants' violations of the FLSA, Plaintiff has incurred harm and loss in an amount to be determined at trial, along with liquidated damages, attorneys' fees and costs of litigation, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

**COUNT II**  
**NYLL Overtime Claim**

48. Plaintiff reasserts and realleges the allegations set forth in each of the above paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

49. At all times relevant to this Action, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants within the meaning of New York Labor Law §§ 2 and 651.

50. Under New York law, an employee must be paid overtime, equal to one and one half times the employee's regular rate of pay, for all hours worked in excess of 40 per week in the manner and methods provided by the FLSA. 12 NYCRR § 142-2.2.

51. By the above-alleged conduct, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff overtime compensation as required by the New York Labor Articles.

52. By the above-alleged conduct, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff overtime compensation for the time periods in which he worked in excess of forty hours a week for Defendants.

53. Plaintiff is not exempt from the overtime provisions of the New York Labor Articles, because he has not met the requirements for any of the reduced number of exemptions available under New York law.

54. Defendants have acted willfully and have either known that their conduct violated the New York Labor Articles or have shown a reckless disregard for the matter of whether their conduct violated the New York Labor Articles. Defendants have not acted in good faith with respect to the conduct alleged herein.

55. As a result of Defendants' violations of the NYLL, Plaintiff has incurred harm and loss in an amount to be determined at trial, along with liquidated damages, attorneys' fees and costs of litigation, pursuant to the NYLL.

**COUNT III**  
**NYLL Section 195(1) – Failure to Provide Wage Notices**

56. Defendants willfully failed to furnish Plaintiff with wage notices during his employment, including the dates of his hiring, as required by NYLL § 195(1), in English or in the language identified by Plaintiff as his primary language, which were to contain, among other things, Plaintiff's rate or rates of pay and basis thereof; the regular pay day designated by Defendants as employers in accordance with NYLL § 191; the name of the employer; any "doing business as" names used by the employer; the physical address of the employer's main office or principal place of business, and a mailing address if different; the telephone number of the employer; and Plaintiff's regular hourly rates of pay and overtime rates of pay.

57. Through their knowing and intentional failure to provide Plaintiff with the wage notices required by the NYLL, Defendants have willfully violated NYLL §§ 190 *et seq.* and the supporting New York Labor Articles.

58. Due to Defendants' willful violations of the NYLL, Plaintiff is entitled to recover statutory penalties, together with costs and attorneys' fees provided by NYLL § 198(1-b).

**COUNT IV**  
**NYLL Section 195(3) – Failure to Provide Wage Statements**

59. Defendants willfully failed to provide Plaintiff written wage statements with his wages each week as required by NYLL § 195(3), which were to include, among other things, the dates of work covered by each payment of wages; name of employee; name of employer; address and phone number of employer; rate or rates of pay and basis thereof; deductions; net wages; the

regular hourly rate or rates of pay; the overtime rate or rates of pay; and the number of regular hours worked and the number of overtime hours worked.

60. Through their knowing and intentional failure to provide Plaintiff with wage statements required by the NYLL, Defendants have willfully violated NYLL §§ 190 *et seq.* and the supporting New York Labor Articles.

61. Due to Defendants' willful violations of the NYLL, Plaintiff is entitled to recover statutory penalties, together with costs and attorneys' fees as provided by NYLL § 198(1-d).

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, by and through his attorneys, Neil H. Greenberg & Associates, P.C., demand judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally and in favor of Plaintiff, for a sum that will properly, adequately, and completely compensate Plaintiff for the nature, extent, and duration of the damages, costs of this action, and as follows:

- A. Declare and find that the Defendants committed one or more of the following acts:
  - 1. Violated provisions of the FLSA by failing to pay overtime wages to Plaintiff;
  - 2. Willfully violated overtime provisions of the FLSA;
  - 3. Violated the provisions of the NYLL by failing to pay overtime wages to Plaintiff;
  - 4. Willfully violated the applicable provisions of the NYLL.
- B. Award compensatory damages, including all overtime compensation owed, in an amount according to proof;
- C. Award interest on all NYLL overtime compensation and other compensation due accruing from the date such amounts were due;



- D. Award all costs, attorney's fees incurred in prosecuting this action, liquidated damages under the FLSA and the NYLL, and statutory penalties under the NYLL; and
- E. Provide such further relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

Dated: Massapequa, New York  
February 1, 2017



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**FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT - CONSENTIMIENTO/CONSENT FORM**

Doy mi consentimiento para ser parte demandante en una demanda contra Utica Finest Meats Inc. and Marcos Chaparro y / o entidades e individuos relacionados con el fin de obtener reparación por violaciones de la Fair Labor Standards Act, (*Ley de las Normas Laborales Justas*) de conformidad con 29 U.S.C. § 216 (b). Por la presente yo designo Neil H. Greenberg & Associates, P.C. para representarme en tal demanda.

I, consent to be a party plaintiff in a lawsuit against Utica Finest Meats Inc. and Marcos Chaparro and/or related entities and individuals in order to seek redress for violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216 (b). I hereby designate Neil H. Greenberg & Associates, P.C. to represent me in such a lawsuit.



Firma (Signature)

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Jose Calderon Chaparro

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1517 Park Pl. Apt 1R

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Brooklyn, NY,